

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA SOLIS

June 14, 2016

Refugee Awareness Month

Historically, the United States is recognized as a nation that welcomes refugees who pursue a dream of freedom, opportunity, and integration. Refugees see our country as an opportunity to have a new start and a better future for their families.

Our nation continues to embrace a commitment of compassion, generosity and support for those refugees and their families that have been forced to flee their homelands due to religious and political persecution, war, and civil turmoil.

Many refugees that arrive in the United States experience language, educational, and cultural barriers that hinder their successful transition to life in the United States.

Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health and Department of Public Social Services, along with local refugee services agencies, continue to assist refugees and their families on the path to integration and self-sufficiency by providing culturally and linguistically sensitive supportive services. Local refugee services agencies include:

- Armenian Relief Society;
- Catholic Charities of Los Angeles;
- Community Enhancement Services;
- Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles;

--More--

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
SOLIS	_____

- Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service;
- International Institute of Los Angeles;
- International Rescue Committee;
- Jewish Family Services
- Jewish Vocational Services;
- Los Angeles Refugee Forum; and
- World Relief.

Refugees seeking freedom and safety have chosen to relocate to Los Angeles County communities for many decades. The California Department of Social Services, Refugee Program Bureau indicates that 6,686 refugees arrived in Los Angeles County over the past five years. Refugees enrich our society and add diversity; strengthening the fabric of life in Los Angeles County through their faiths, many talents, and shared common values.

Just as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees annually proclaims June 20th as “World Refugee Day,” the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County applauds and embraces the contributions that refugees bring to our County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles proclaims June 2016 “Refugee Awareness Month” to increase awareness of the valuable contributions of refugees to Los Angeles County.

#